

" throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth, and right into the nineteenth century, the greatest county personage or the humblest parishioner stood on his personal status, whatever that status was "

What lived on through this anarchy, were certain ancient principles, inherited from centuries before the 1689 Revolution, and embodied in certain local institutions

Of these the most significant was a relic of feudalism, the "obligation to serve," together with the system of vocational organisation, which carried with it the principle of self-election or co-option Property—and this in the main, of course, meant landed property—was further held to be the indispensable qualification for the exercise of authority,

and often as carrying a title to such exercise The whole scene was dominated by property, by local customs, and by the common law It was on this that there swept down the Industrial Revolution They would, one guesses, have small patience with that modern view which seeks to prove that this revolution was not one

Hard to find, among the countless descriptions of the introduction of steam-power penned in one and a half centuries, a more illuminating picture of what it meant to the ordinary man and woman than that contained in the pages of *Statutory Authorities for Special Purposes* Here is a book whose truly repulsive title ought never to have been tolerated, since it serves to lock away from many students a volume which, at any rate in its second half, is

of revealing interest Remarkable as is the swift
and sure
delineation of the "massing of men" that the
New Power
brought with it, still more impressive and more
vivid is the
terrifying account that follows of "the
devastating torrent
of Public Nuisances " Those, indeed, with
acute noses
will find these pages hard to read, so violent is
the assault
upon the sense of smell delivered in them¹
After showing
how the sum of changes effected in a quarter
of a century